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Approved For Release 2001/12/04 : CIA-RDP83M00171R001800060002-1

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

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13 AUG 1975

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On 20 and 23 May of this year I provided you with information and comments concerning how the Intelligence Community operated in support of the rescue of the Mayaguez and its crew.

I have since then had a formal Post-Mortem prepared which examines the Intelligence Community's performance before and after the Mayaguez incident. Its purpose is to broadly inform the Intelligence Community and other senior US officials on the positive aspects of intelligence support in this crisis as well as on the shortcomings identified and the steps being taken to overcome them. A copy of the Post-Mortem is attached for your use and information.

Because we have now had more time for introspection and analysis, this report contains somewhat greater detail than I previously provided you. And while it comes to essentially the same conclusions about the performance of the Community, I now believe that the US critical communications system (CRITICOM) needs improvement in ways that I did not specify earlier.

Accordingly, the USIB Directive governing the CRITICOM system has been revised and will be reissued following USIB review. Community-wide standard operating procedures for handling critical information among Washington area intelligence and operations centers are also being developed.

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Beyond that, the principal conclusions and recommendations set forth in the attached report are similar to those I identified in my 23 May letter to you. The first two pages of the Post-Mortem summarize the findings of the report, including the weaknesses identified and the steps I plan to set them right.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
W. E. Colby

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Attachment:

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